

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 L-03 CIEP-02 H-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9917

UNCLAS CARACAS 4308

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENGR VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CALDERA'S COMMENTS ON SECRETARY ROGERS
STATEMENT

REF: CARACAS 4264

1. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 17, PRESIDENT CALDERA WAS ASKED
QUOTE WHAT POSITION DOES THE GOVERNMENT TAKE ON THE AFFIRMATION
OF WILLIAM ROGERS THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN BUY ALL THE OIL
THAT VENEZUELA WISHES? COULD THIS STATEMENT BE INTERPRETED
AS A SUGGESTION FOR INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ORINOCO
PETROLEUM BELT? UNQUOTE

2. IN HIS RESPONSE, PRESIDENT CALDERA DID NOT GIVE A DIRECT
REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS AND DID NOT MENTION THE ORINOCO BELT.
HE SPOKE OF US' S URGENT NEED FOR OIL, OF FACT THAT VENEZLUELA
IS PRINCIPLE HEMISPHERIC SUPPLIER OF US IMPORTS AND SAID THAT
IT HAS BEEN SECURE SUPPLIER, AND THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO THINK
IT WILL NOT CONTINUE TO BE SECURE SUPPLIER AND THAT IT IS INTEREST-
ED IN SELLING ITS OIL WITHIN LIMITS SUGGESTED BY PRUDENCE AND THE
NATIONAL INTEREST, AND UNDER SATISFACTORY CONDITIONS.

3. PRESIDENT CALDERA ADDED THAT SECRETARY ROGERS, AS A REPRE-
SENTATIVE OF THE BUYING COUNTRY, SUGGESTS AS CONDITIONS FOR
BUYING THAT THE MERCHANDISE BE OFFERED UNDER QUOTE COMPETITIVE
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CONDITIONS UNQUOTE. VENEZUELA, AS SELLER, HE SAID, ESTABLISHES
AS A CONDITION THAT THE SALE TAKE PLACE UNDER QUOTE REMUNERATIVE
CONDITIONS UNQUOTE.
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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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